Discrimination in education

†3814. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a specific discrimination exists in the field of education on the basis of caste, sex, religion and class in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The National Policy on Education (NPE), *inter-alia,* implies that up to a given level, all students irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex have access to education of a comparable quality. It includes a common educational structure, a national curricular framework and minimum levels of learning for each stage of education. Several special schemes are being implemented for educational upliftment of SC/ST and other disadvantaged groups of society.

Assessment of NCERT books

†3815. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made with regard to acceptability/ reliability of the text books published by the N.C.E.R.T. during past years;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not making any assessment so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The NCERT reviews regularly its text-books with the help of experts and practising teachers, Any suggestion/comments received from time to time are also incorporated during reprinting.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.